## Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## **Listing of Claims**:

Claims 1-3 (Cancelled)

- 4. (new) A method for isolating pyrrole-containing biological compounds from a sample, the method comprising:
- 1) contacting the sample with a biotinylated Ehrlich's reagent which comprises a cleavable bond such that a reaction product is formed between the pyrrole-containing biological compound and the biotinylated Ehrlich's reagent;
- 2) contacting the reaction product with avidin or streptavidin attached to a solid support, such that the reaction product is bound to the solid support through biotin-avidin/streptavidin binding; and
- 3) isolating the reaction product bound to the support by cleaving the cleavable bond of the Ehrhlich's reagent.
- 5. (new) The method according to Claim 4, wherein the Ehrlich's reagent has a formula of

$$R_1$$
  $R_2$   $R_4$   $R_4$   $R_3$ 

Serial No. 10/671,979 Amendment Dated: October 17, 2005 Reply to Office Action

wherein  $R^1$  is an alkyl group,  $R^2$  is an alkylene group,  $R^4$  is a heteroalkylene group comprising a cleavable bond, X is biotin, and Y is avidin or strepavidin attached to a solid support.

- 6. (new) The method according to Claim 4, further comprising washing the reaction product bound to the solid support prior to the isolating step (3).
- 7. (new) The method according to Claim 5, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is a straight-chain alkyl group containing 1-10 carbon atoms, and R<sup>2</sup> is a straight-chain alkylene group containing 1-10 carbon atoms.
- 8. (new) The method according to Claim 7, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is a straight-chain alkyl group containing 1-5 carbon atoms.
- 9. (new) The method according to Claim 7, R<sup>2</sup> is a straight-chain alkylene group containing 1-5 carbon atoms.
- 10. (new) The method according to Claim 9, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is a straight-chain alkyl group containing 1-5 carbon atoms, and R<sup>2</sup> is a straight-chain alkylene group containing 1-5 carbon atoms.
- 12. (new) The method according to Claim 4, wherein R<sup>4</sup> comprises a disulphide bond.
- 13. (new) The method according to Claim 12, wherein R<sup>4</sup> is -NH(CH<sub>2</sub>) <sub>2</sub>SS(CH<sub>2</sub>) <sub>2</sub>NHC(O)(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>5</sub>NH-.
- 14. (new) The method according to Claim 12, wherein the disulphide bond is cleaved by a reducing agent.

- 15. (new) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the reducing agent is  $\beta$ -Mercaptoethanol and dithiothreitol.
- 16. (new) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the reducing agent is dithiothreitol.
- 17. (new) A method for isolating pyrrole-containing biological compounds from a sample, the method comprising:
- 1) contacting the sample with a biotinylated Ehrlich's reagent which comprises a cleavable bond such that a reaction product is formed between the pyrrole-containing biological compound and the biotinylated Ehrlich's reagent; wherein the biotinylated Ehrlich's reagent has a formula of:

$$R_1$$
  $R_2$   $R_4$   $R_4$   $R_4$ 

wherein R<sup>1</sup> is methyl, R<sup>2</sup> is ethylene, R<sup>4</sup> is -NH(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SS(CH<sub>2</sub>)
<sub>2</sub>NHC(O)(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>5</sub>NH- which comprises a disulphide bond, and X is biotin,

- 2) contacting the reaction product with avidin immobilized on a column, such that the reaction product is bound to the solid support through biotin-avidin binding; and
- 3) applying dithiothreitol to the column, thereby cleaving the disulphide and isolating the reaction product bound to the support.